

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

40th Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

17 - 22 July 2017

(Comments of Papua New Guinea)

Agenda Item 8 (CX/CAC 17/40/8) Proposals for New Work

Background

In line with the CAC Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Strategic Goal 1 – Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues and Objective 1.1 Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC and Objective 1.2 Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and where appropriate, develop relevant food standards. Papua New Guinea (PNG) fully supported the proposal submitted by CCNASWP14 REP17/NASWP para 76 and Annex 1 of this document and take into account Critical Review by the Executive Committee.

PNG Position

PNG fully supports the proposal of Vanuatu with assistance from Australia and New Zealand and other CCNASWP Member countries for the Commission to approve new work in 2017 on Draft Regional Standard for kava as a beverage when mixed with cold water, for circulation at Step 3 for CCNASWP15 for consideration.

Agenda Item 11 (CX/CAC 17/40/11) Regular Review of Codex Work Management (Electronic Working Groups)

Introduction

In line with CAC Strategic Plan 2014-2019, the Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) were more effective and efficient in advancing the work of the Commission. It was cost efficient and cost effective tool to work on specific issues of relevance or concerns to Codex work with production of timely reports and papers.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) will continue to support the work of the EWGs with more improvements while exploring other online tools such as electronic platforms to promote as side events in Codex sessions for example during the Codex Regional meetings to enhance participation and build capacity in Codex work;

As per the Appendix 1 of the Report on the 2016 Review of the EWGs, the TOR for the EWG must be set out during the plenary sessions and not modified until task is completed. Obviously; the output is to produce a working document or discussion paper.

It is very important for developing countries such as PNG to actively participate to achieve Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 under Goal # 3 “to facilitate the effectiveness of all Codex Members.

In doing so, the Codex Contact Points (CCPs) play an important role in informing the country stakeholders about the new EWGs and its significance once we participate. However, it has been noted that average registration rates of developing countries were low. Thus, we must improve on this area to increase the level of participation. Also, it would be appropriate if a template structure be followed by all countries in the EWG discussions.

The new online platform developed by Codex Secretariat has to be rolled out at regional level in the side events especially for developing countries to fully aware of its importance.

PNG Position

Thus, PNG support that Point # 39 on Conclusion to Appendix 1 that more awareness of the use of Codex online platform is required to appreciate new technology to address Goal 4 of the Codex Strategic Plan and generally supported the recommendations of Appendix 1 due to the fact that EWG's contribute to Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan (Effective participation); and Goal 4 of Codex Strategic Plan (effective and efficient work management practices). It is also in line with Procedural Manual, Section 111 as adopted by CAC in 2015 and in line with Strategic Goal 3 and 4, Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 where it talks about involving all Members and ensure active participation of developing countries in the work of CAC. It was important to know that more developing countries acted as hosts or co-host of some EWGs. The EWGs must stick to its TOR to achieve its goals and objectives.

Agenda Item 12 (CX/CAC 17/40/12 Add.2) Matters arising from the reports of the Commission, the Executive Committee and the subsidiary bodies: Report of the Physical Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Introduction

Papua New Guinea (PNG) greatly appreciates the Report of the Physical Working Group (PWG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) which was held in London, UK from 29th November to 02nd December, 2016 had done a tremendous work by reviewing the two project documents;

- (1) Proposal for new work on revision of the Code of Practice to Minimise and contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005; and
- (2) Proposal for new work on the Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance.

PNG supports the resolutions of the physical working group for CAC40 session to approve as new work and to set up electronic working group to discuss the two proposals above and Review the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Scientific Advice.

It is equally important to recognize the work done by FAO, WHO and OIE in addressing the AMR;

The UN General Assembly in September, 2016 adopt a Declaration on AMR which commits countries to develop multi-sectoral national action plans (NAP) in line with One health approach to develop and strengthen surveillance, monitoring and regulatory frame works;

Thus, currently, in PNG, FAO and WHO has assisted to develop its multi-sectoral AMR country action plan and once it's signed by three (3) heads of key Government Ministries which include Agriculture, Health and Environment, the relevant stakeholders will implement our objectives and activities to achieve measurable indicators and targeted outcomes.

Further, in PNG, we have to adopt AMR into our Medicines and Pharmaceutical Act for the Health Sector and for animal origin including fishery and marine life incorporate it into Animal Act.

PNG noted that it is relevant to Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Goal 1-Establish international Food Standards that address current and emerging food issues and Objective 1.2 Proactively identify emerging issues and where appropriate, develop relevant food standards and Activity 1.2.2 Develops and revise international and regional food standards that are identified by members and Objective 1.3 Strengthen and coordinate with other international standard setting organizations to prevent duplication and optimize opportunities. Also, it is appropriate to have access too many other existing Codex Documents and to cross reference with other international organizations such as OIE to avoid duplication and reinvention of wheel.

PNG has to do a lot of work on AMR at country level to generate data and contribute to Scientific Advice;

PNG Position

Thus, PNG supports the proposal for new work to commence at Step 3 in 2017 as proposed by the PWG.

Project Document 2

Proposal for new work on the Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance

Surveillance is vital to provide guidance on the design and implementation of foodborne antimicrobial resistance along the food chain to obtain more data from different locations and countries. In this document the scope should also include aquaculture to cater for fishery and marine life.

It also talks about development of multi-sectoral action plans in line with One health approach which include the development and strengthening of surveillance, monitoring and regulatory frameworks. The adoption of international guidance is essential to develop harmonization with other countries. It is essential to collaborate with other international organizations to prevent duplication and re-invention of wheel.

It is equally important to identify the needs of the developing countries and assist to combat AMR as an integrated approach.

National legislations need to be developed or reviewed to incorporate AMR especially in developing countries such as PNG.

It is also captured in the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019, Strategic Goal 1 Objective 1.2 and Activity 1.2.2 as mentioned in Document 1 above.

The existing Codex Documents can be consulted to be used as a basis to do further work.

Mechanism needs to be put in place to generate information to be analysed to be used for Scientific Advice from developing countries.

PNG Position

Thus, PNG fully supports the new work to be approved by CAC40 session at Step 3 in 2017 as proposed by the PWG.

Also, in principle PNG support the TOR but it also should include aquaculture to cater for fishery and marine resources and further describe how data can be generated from developing countries such as PNG to contribute to scientific advice.

Agenda Item 15.3 (CX/CAC 17/40/18) Matters Arising from FAO and WHO: Codex Trust Fund Activities

Introduction

Papua New Guinea (PNG) wishes to appreciate efforts of CTF1 for supporting several of our relevant stakeholders to physically attend Codex meetings overseas for the purpose of capacity building.

Also, PNG welcomes the 1st Annual Report of the new CTF which was established in 2016 to support national capacities in Codex activities as it aligns very well with some Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to address its priorities and activities.

PNG appreciates documents for new CTF such as FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tools for Assessing National Codex Programmes and Application guidance materials for individual and group applications.

PNG appreciated information sessions delivered to help countries prepare robust applications at four (4) FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees sessions that can be accessed on new CTF website.

The new CTF will identify needs of developing countries and countries in transition to conduct more technical work to generate data base for Scientific Advice.

Since new CTF is geared towards result base framework however, due to current funding situation, PNG believes that the information collected from piloted projects around the world need to be shared amongst Member countries where these projects has been implemented.

PNG Position

PNG appreciates the milestone achievements of CTF1 and welcome the 1st Annual Report of new CTF. Also, PNG request that new CTF Secretariat continue to have dialogue with potential countries and donors to provide funding support to address needs of developing countries identified during the use of Self-Assessment Diagnostic Tools to enhance capacity building projects to generate data to contribute to Scientific Advice to assist FAO and WHO to conduct risk analysis.

Agenda Item 19 Other Business

Introduction

In 2014 the Codex Contact Points (CCPs) were given the mandate to organise the World Health Day with a theme: Food Safety and it was successfully accomplished throughout the Codex world including Papua New Guinea (PNG). In PNG, the National Codex Committee (NCC) organised open air event and attracted high level guest speakers from Government, FAO and WHO. The NCC and relevant government and private stakeholders were involve in food business displayed food products and displayed Codex food safety posters. Local inorganically grown quality fresh produce were also displayed at the stalls.

However, during the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2016, the Commission fully supported the proposal for establishment of a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis under United Nations framework.

At the recent 40th Session of the FAO Conference it has adopted the Resolution calling for the declaration of a World Food Safety Day to be celebrated on the 7th June annually.

Also, PNG is in full support of the Proposal submitted by Costa Rica for the Establishment of World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis.

On behalf of Codex Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Government of PNG we wish to congratulate our Madame Chairperson for her milestone achievement in tabling the agenda at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference on 3-8 July, 2017 in Rome, Italy recently and got overwhelming support.

PNG Position

Therefore, the Codex PNG on behalf of the Government of PNG fully supports the Decision made by the recent 40th Session of the FAO Conference in Rome and also supports the Proposal of Costa Rica for the Establishment of World Food Safety Day on 7th June annually.